

- (v) Provision of telephones in all villages by March 2002 with participation of private sector.
- (vi) Provision of STD facility in all telephone exchanges of Telecom Network.

Objection by Ministry of Finance to free telephone connections

1751. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 180 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 2000 and state whether the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has raised any objections for the same; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, Ministry of Finance had raised certain issues relating to change of service conditions etc. and desired consultation before any decision is taken. This process has been duly gone through. However, no formal orders have been issued so far in view of stay granted by Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

Adoption of Norms by TRAI for fixed services providers

1752. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority is presently examining the licencing norms to be adopted for fixed services providers;
- (b) if so, by when a final recommendation will be made; and
- (c) what are the areas of issue that are being covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Final recommendations are likely to be made by end of August, 2000.
- (c) Issues being covered are:
 - (i) Number of private service providers in a Circle besides Department of Telecommunication Operations.